

Testimony of
The Connecticut Association Of Schools
&
The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference
Before the Legislature's Education Committee
Monday, March 4, 2013
11:00 AM, Room 2C

Re: HB 6503 AAC Public School Pool Safety.

Good morning. My name is Paul Hoey. I am the Associate Executive Director of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference ("CIAC"). In that capacity, I am here today to express the support of the Connecticut Association of Schools ("CAS") and the CIAC for **HB 6503 AAC Public School Pool Safety.**

Prior to my present position I worked for thirty-five years as a teacher and school administrator serving as a high school principal for twenty-five years. Additionally, I chaired the girls' state swimming committee for twenty-four years and served on the boys' state swimming committee for the same twenty-four years.

CAS and the CIAC support the intent of HB 6503 which sets forth clear and coherent guidelines for all schools with swim programs as part of their physical education program, protects the safety of the children in their charge and does not impose an undue burden upon schools or the community. The proposed certification requirements are what many schools already have in place, but will assure that all school programs will have qualified and certified staff in the pool area.

The allowable use of those over sixteen with the proper certification to assist a certified instructor is an excellent idea. Many high school students are certified life guards and/or water safety instructors and work as life guards for park and recreation swim programs during the school year and summer. Use of qualified students is cost effective and will enhance pool safety.

CAS and the CIAC would request that HB 6503 be amended to reduce the number required before a second person is assigned to the pool for supervision to 18-20. We believe that twenty-five with one instructor exceeds safety limits.

With this amendment CAS and the CIAC support passage of HB 6503.

This completes my testimony. Thank you for your consideration.

Paul R. Hoey
Associate Executive Director
CIAC